

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 10, at line 3 as shown below:

In a second embodiment, as illustrated in FIG. 4, it is contemplated that the length of tube member 14 can be drastically reduced, as shown. In such an embodiment, in order to prevent the soft palate of the wearer from collapsing, palate member 44 is attached to tube member 14, and extends posteriorly therefrom. In this embodiment, palate member 44 is attached to tube member 14 at one end 46 (preferably via attachment plate 48). As palate member 44 extends to opposing end 50, palate member 44 extends upward into the soft palate of the wearer. This upward extension is accurately shown in FIG. 4, where palate member 44 is shown as curving towards what would be the soft palate of a wearer. The opposing end 50 of the palate member 44 has a downward extending portion. The embodiment of oral device 10 shown in FIG. 4 maintains the advantage, in light of the drastically reduced length of tube member 14, of being not as intrusive as the embodiment of oral device 10 shown in FIGS. 1 and 3.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 11, at line 8 as shown below:

A third embodiment of oral device 10 is illustrated in FIG. 5. In the third embodiment, which closely resembles the second embodiment described above, tongue member 54 extends from tube member 14. Tongue member 54 is preferably made of the same material (and possesses the same characteristics) as palate member 44, and is of sufficient length to reach the rear area of the tongue of the wearer. Anterior end 56 of tongue member 54 is curved downward to follow the shape of the back of the tongue. In this embodiment, palate member 44 then provides a platform on which the palate of the user can rest when it collapses as the wearer sleeps, and tongue member 54 holds the tongue of the user down and out of the way, thus ensuring an even greater patency of the airway. The process of preventing collapse of the soft palate by ensuring the patency of the airway in this manner also prevents the soft palate from vibrating, which alleviates snoring. The tongue member 54 may also

include anchoring mechanism 52, which is represented as a slot disposed within tongue member 54. A retainer, such as, for example, a screw (not shown), may be inserted through attachment plate 48 and anchoring mechanism 52 to secure the positioning of tongue member 54. Finally, also similar to the first and second embodiments, the third embodiment also includes cushion member 40, preferably affixed to end 50 of palate member 44 to prevent any irritation which may occur from the hardness of the material of palate member 14 as it maintains contact against the soft palate of the wearer.